

Summary

FROM THE *DICTIONARY OF MEDIEVAL LATIN IN CZECH LANDS: ALBIRUS*

The main aim of this article is to identify the origin and meaning of one Latin zoological term in the works of Thomas of Cantimpré and Czech medieval lexicographer Bartholomaeus de Solencia dictus Claretus. Both works employ names of animals that are extremely difficult to interpret either semantically or linguistically and whose Greek or Latin origin is not immediately clear. Most of them are attached to animals the description of which Thomas claims to be derived from Aristotle. Thomas used the Latin translation of the Aristotle's work *Historia animalium* translated from Arabic by Michael Scotus. Due to phonetical differences between these languages as well as inaccuracies and mistakes in both translations, the text of Aristotle and the forms of the original Greek names were variously modified. Aristotle's term Ἀχίλλειον (σπόγγος), denoting a fine quality of sponge called the "elephant ear" (*Spongia officinalis* var. *lamella* Schulze), appears at Michael Scotus as *albus*, at Thomas of Cantimpré in the form of *albirez* and at Claretus in the form of *albirus* and *albinus*.

Keywords: medieval lexicography; ancient and medieval zoology; latin names of sea sponge; Bartholomaeus de Solencia dictus Claretus; Aristoteles; Aristoteles Latinus; Michael Scotus; Thomas of Cantimpré

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